Fresh increase in support prices of Wheat

7135. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India propose to announce fresh increase in the support price of wheat in view of the increased price of electricity, fertilizers and farm machinery including tractor; and

(b) if so, by what time these fresh announcements are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal under consideration to announce fresh increase in the support price of wheat for the year 1993-94 to be marketed in 1994-95 has already been announced as Rs. 350 per quintal after adjusting cost of cultivation for the increases in the variable input price indices.

Comparatative food production in India

7136. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has 60 million hectares under irrigation as compared to 47 million in China yet India's food production is only 180 mt. whereas China produces two and a half times more;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India is the second largest producer of rice yet it occupies 54th position in the yield;

(c) whether the low yield is due to lack of irrigation facilities, loss of fertility of soil or on availability of fertilisers in time and if not what are the reasons for this general low yield; and

(d) whether any new strategy is in the offing in this matter and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) According to FAO Production Year Book 1992, the area under irrigation during 1991 in China and India was 48 million hectares and 46 million hectares respectively. According to the same source, foodgrain production was 407 million tonnes and 212 million tonnes in 1992 in these two countries. (Rice expressed in terms of reddy).

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Low yield is not only due to lack or irrigation facilities and non-availability of fertilizers in time but due to constraints of agro-climatic conditions, socio economic conditions of the farmers, lack of adoption of improved crop production technology and credit availability, adverse terms of trade, stagnation in investment, etc.

(d) The following strategies are proposed to be adopted for increasing the production and productivity of Cereal crops; Emphasis on increasing productivity of the cropping systems as a whole particularly in cereal schemes; filed demonstration and farmer training for the transfer of techology, propagation of IPM approach; new germ-plasms with high yieding potential and biotic and abiotic stress resistance, use of organics; improving soil health and nutrient use efficiency through encouraging the use of soil ameliorants; and increased emphasis on the effective monitoring of programmes implementation.